

LESSON 2: Understanding Academic Book Reviews

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define an academic book review
- Identify its purpose and audience
- Recognize the main components of a book review

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between a *summary* and a *review*?
2. Why are book reviews important in academia?

Reading Activity

Model Book Review 1 (Applied Linguistics)

Review of *An Introduction to Applied Linguistics*

Alan Davies & Catherine Elder (Eds.) (2004). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

This edited volume provides a comprehensive overview of the field of applied linguistics, addressing its theoretical foundations, research methods, and practical applications. The book aims to clarify the scope of applied linguistics while demonstrating its relevance to real-world language-related problems.

The volume is divided into thematically organized chapters written by specialists in the field. It covers key areas such as language teaching, second language acquisition, discourse analysis, language testing, and sociolinguistics. Each chapter combines theoretical discussion with illustrative examples, making complex concepts more accessible to advanced students.

One of the main strengths of the book lies in its breadth and academic rigor. The contributors successfully highlight the interdisciplinary nature of applied linguistics, and the chapters are generally well-structured and clearly written. However, due to its broad coverage, some topics are treated rather briefly, which may limit its usefulness for readers seeking in-depth analysis of specific areas.

Overall, this book represents a valuable introductory resource for undergraduate and postgraduate students of applied linguistics. It is particularly suitable for readers who wish to gain a solid conceptual understanding of the field before engaging with more specialized studies.

Activity 1: Comprehension Questions

1. What book is being reviewed (title, author, year)?
2. What is the main aim of the book?
3. Who is the target audience?
4. Does the reviewer give a positive or negative evaluation?
5. What criteria does the reviewer use to evaluate the book?

